

**HUMBOLDT COUNTY**  
**Support and Treatment After Release Program – (\$700,000 grant)**

The Support and Treatment After Release (STAR) program is anchored in the evidence-based Assertive Community Treatment (ACT). Due to the county's rural setting, the STAR program uses the rural ACT organizational structure known as Comprehensive Community Treatment. The core of the program is the multi-disciplinary team that serves as the clients' link to a coordinated continuum of care, beginning with jail discharge planning and continuing with comprehensive community-based treatment and support services. The STAR team, which includes mental health clinicians, a psychiatrist, psychiatric nurse, peer specialist, and case manager, provides treatment and support seven days a week to participants, who can access crisis services on a 24/7 basis.

Following program admission, each participant is assigned a "personal team" comprised of clinical and case management staff that works with the client and his/her family in developing an individualized treatment plan based on a comprehensive needs assessment. Services include individual/family counseling, medication, assistance with transportation, employment and housing, support for substance abuse recovery, and specialized education in such areas as anger management, social functioning and independent living.

A key component of the project is the STAR Court, which involves the active participation of Superior Court Judge Feeney and representatives from the offices of the District Attorney, Public Defender, and Conflict Counsel. This bi-monthly court goes "on the road" to meet with clients in community service locations for the purpose of tracking and evaluating progress and treatment compliance.

The STAR team is part of a larger Forensic Team that includes the individuals involved in the STAR Court as well as jail and probation staff. With input from STAR staff, the Forensic Team evaluates and selects participants for the project, which will serve an estimated 25 mentally ill offenders.

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